

BLASTX, and TBLASTX) and two designed for protein sequence queries (BLASTP and TBLASTN) (Coulsen, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994); Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997)).

Remarks

I. Support for the Amendments

The specification has been amended to remove embedded hyperlinks. No new matter enters by these amendments.

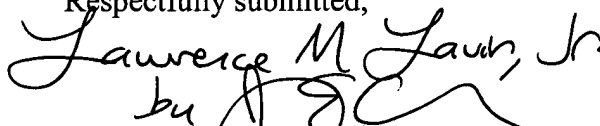
II. The Objection to the Specification

In the Final Action at page 7, the Examiner has objected to the specification because it allegedly contains embedded hyperlinks and/or other forms of browser-executable code. Applicants have previously accommodated this objection by amendment of the specification to remove all "http://" prefixes, underlining, and embedded hyperlinks. *See* Responsive Amendment filed September 21, 2001.

A URL is not considered to be browser executable code if it is not either preceded by "http://" or placed between the symbols "< >". MPEP § 608.01, page 600-60, Examiner Note. As such, the URLs present in the application, prior to this amendment, were not browser executable code, and would not be interpreted by a browser as a link to another web site. However, in order to facilitate issues for appeal, the specification has been amended to obviate the objection.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due at this time; however, should any fees be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 13-4125, referencing docket number 38-21(15404)B.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence M. Lavin, Jr." with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Lawrence M. Lavin, Jr. (Reg. No. 30,768)
by June E. Conan (Reg. No. 43,741)

Date: 1 May 2002

Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
Mail Zone N2NB
St. Louis, MO 63167
314-694-3602 telephone
314-694-1671 facsimile

Marked-Up Version of Amended Specification

On page 5, at lines 16 to 25:

Similarity analysis includes database search and alignment. Examples of public databases include the DNA Database of Japan (DDBJ) ([www\[.\]ddbj.nig.ac.jp/](http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/)); GenBank ([www\[.\]ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/web/GenBank/Index.html](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/web/GenBank/Index.html)); and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Nucleic Acid Sequence Database (EMBL) ([www\[.\]ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/embl_db.html](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/embl_db.html)). A number of different search algorithms have been developed, one example of which are the suite of programs referred to as BLAST programs. There are five implementations of BLAST, three designed for nucleotide sequence queries (BLASTN, BLASTX, and TBLASTX) and two designed for protein sequence queries (BLASTP and TBLASTN) (Coulsen, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994); Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997)).